



**For Release: Thursday, January 29, 2015**

**15-135-BOS**

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## **County Employment and Wages in Massachusetts – Second Quarter 2014**

Employment increased in all nine of the large counties in Massachusetts from June 2013 to June 2014. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2013 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that Essex County had the largest gain, up 1.8 percent, followed by Norfolk County, up 1.7 percent. Employment gains in all nine large counties were below the national increase of 2.0 percent.

Nationally, 305 of the 339 large counties had employment gains from June 2013 to June 2014. The largest over-the-year percentage gain was recorded in Weld, Colo. (8.9 percent). Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment (-1.6 percent).

Among the nine large counties in Massachusetts, employment was highest in Middlesex (861,791) in June 2014, followed by Suffolk (619,466). Together, Massachusetts' large counties accounted for 93.6 percent of total employment within the Commonwealth. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment in June 2014.

Average weekly wages increased in all nine of the large counties in Massachusetts from the second quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014. Suffolk County had the largest wage gain, up 3.7 percent. Barnstable and Essex (2.9 percent each) and Hampden (2.8 percent) recorded the next highest wage growth. Suffolk County had the highest average weekly wage at \$1,463, followed by Middlesex (\$1,386) and Norfolk (\$1,077). Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.1 percent over the year to \$940 in the second quarter of 2014. (See [table 1.](#))

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the five counties in Massachusetts with employment below 75,000. All five of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large County Wage Changes**

Suffolk County's 3.7-percent annual wage gain ranked 29<sup>th</sup> among the 339 largest U.S. counties in the second quarter of June 2014. Barnstable and Essex (2.9 percent each) as well as Hampden (2.8 percent) placed in the top-quarter for wage growth among the largest U.S. counties. (See [table 1.](#)) Plymouth (2.6 percent) and Worcester (2.4 percent) also had above average wage growth.

Of the 339 largest counties, 312 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Nationwide, Midland, Texas, ranked first in average weekly wage growth, with an increase of 9.0 percent from the second quarter of 2013. Douglas, Colo., placed second with a wage gain of 8.8 percent, followed by Hillsborough, N.H. (7.4 percent) and Collier, Fla. (6.8 percent).

Twenty-two large counties nationwide experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Williamson, Texas, had the largest average weekly wage decrease with a loss of 2.7 percent. Westchester, N.Y., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, followed by Lake, Ind.; Bibb, Ga.; Washington, D.C.; and Chittenden, Vt.

### **Large County Average Weekly Wages**

Average weekly wages in 5 of Massachusetts' 9 large counties were above the national average of \$940 in the second quarter of 2014. Two of these counties placed in the top 10 nationwide—Suffolk (\$1,463, 7<sup>th</sup>) and Middlesex (\$1,386, 10<sup>th</sup>). Average weekly wages were lowest in Barnstable County (\$789, 256<sup>th</sup>).

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 109 of the 339 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$1,886. San Mateo, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,740, followed by New York, N.Y. (\$1,732), San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,593), and Washington, D.C. (\$1,569).

More than two-thirds of the largest U.S. counties (230) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2014. The lowest weekly wage was reported in Horry, S.C. (\$548), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron (\$585) and Hidalgo (\$608). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than one-third of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,886).

### **Average Weekly Wages in Massachusetts' Smaller Counties**

All five counties in Massachusetts with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$940. Among these smaller counties, Nantucket had the highest average weekly wage at \$912 and Franklin reported the lowest at \$721.

When all 14 counties in Massachusetts were considered, 3 counties had an average weekly wage below \$800. Four counties reported weekly wages ranging from \$800 to \$899 and three counties had weekly wages from \$900 to \$999. The four highest-paid counties, those with average weekly wages over \$1,000, were located in the Boston metropolitan area, including the area encircled by Highway 495. (See [chart 1.](#))

### **Additional Statistics and other Information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Wages Online*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2013 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2014, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2014

version of the news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm). The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.8 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/); however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 9 largest counties in Massachusetts, second quarter 2014**

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	137,776.4	2.0	--	\$940	--	2.1	--
Massachusetts .....	3,407.0	1.4	--	1,158	2	2.4	15
Barnstable, Mass. ....	103.5	0.9	250	789	256	2.9	67
Bristol, Mass. ....	222.3	1.1	235	856	174	2.0	143
Essex, Mass. ....	320.0	1.8	152	1,007	69	2.9	67
Hampden, Mass. ....	202.5	0.6	273	856	174	2.8	79
Middlesex, Mass. ....	861.8	1.5	185	1,386	10	1.1	249
Norfolk, Mass. ....	343.0	1.7	167	1,077	46	0.7	276
Plymouth, Mass. ....	185.9	0.6	273	911	133	2.6	86
Suffolk, Mass. ....	619.5	1.5	185	1,463	7	3.7	29
Worcester, Mass. ....	332.1	1.0	244	946	102	2.4	104

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Massachusetts, second quarter 2014**

Area	Employment June 2013	Average Weekly Wage <sup>(1)</sup>
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	137,776,364	\$940
Massachusetts .....	3,407,016	1,158
Barnstable County .....	103,461	789
Berkshire County .....	62,851	779
Bristol County .....	222,299	856
Dukes County .....	10,437	831
Essex County .....	320,022	1,007
Franklin County .....	26,602	721
Hampden County .....	202,540	856
Hampshire County .....	61,176	809
Middlesex County .....	861,791	1,386
Nantucket County .....	8,571	912
Norfolk County .....	343,027	1,077
Plymouth County .....	185,897	911
Suffolk County .....	619,466	1,463
Worcester County .....	332,111	946

Footnotes

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	137,776.4	2.0	\$940	--	2.1	--
Alabama .....	1,872.9	0.7	806	36	1.6	38
Alaska .....	344.9	0.5	1,014	8	4.6	2
Arizona .....	2,486.0	1.9	888	21	1.3	43
Arkansas .....	1,168.1	1.5	745	47	1.5	41
California .....	15,905.6	2.8	1,072	6	2.4	15
Colorado .....	2,439.3	3.4	960	14	2.9	8
Connecticut .....	1,676.6	0.6	1,155	3	2.5	13
Delaware .....	429.0	2.5	976	11	1.2	44
District of Columbia .....	732.6	1.0	1,569	1	-0.5	51
Florida .....	7,628.6	3.1	839	28	2.1	23
Georgia .....	4,036.3	3.1	882	22	1.7	35
Hawaii .....	624.6	1.1	845	26	2.7	10
Idaho .....	659.2	2.5	697	51	2.2	22
Illinois .....	5,836.9	1.5	988	10	1.9	32
Indiana .....	2,916.9	1.8	784	42	1.2	44
Iowa .....	1,547.8	1.6	780	43	3.0	7
Kansas .....	1,372.8	1.7	797	38	2.3	20
Kentucky .....	1,820.8	1.7	798	37	2.0	27
Louisiana .....	1,921.6	1.4	843	27	2.4	15
Maine .....	610.4	0.8	746	46	2.1	23
Maryland .....	2,594.4	0.9	1,020	7	1.6	38
Massachusetts .....	3,407.0	1.4	1,158	2	2.4	15
Michigan .....	4,164.7	2.3	897	20	2.3	20
Minnesota .....	2,782.0	1.3	947	16	1.9	32
Mississippi .....	1,101.1	0.5	705	50	2.0	27
Missouri .....	2,703.2	1.3	818	31	1.9	32
Montana .....	453.4	1.1	734	48	2.4	15
Nebraska .....	956.2	1.4	756	45	2.7	10
Nevada .....	1,210.1	3.4	833	30	0.6	50
New Hampshire .....	637.2	1.2	955	15	4.3	3
New Jersey .....	3,944.8	0.8	1,097	5	1.2	44
New Mexico .....	801.0	0.6	794	40	1.7	35
New York .....	8,965.2	1.8	1,146	4	2.4	15
North Carolina .....	4,080.7	2.4	818	31	1.2	44
North Dakota .....	453.0	4.4	936	17	5.5	1
Ohio .....	5,233.8	1.4	846	25	2.1	23
Oklahoma .....	1,578.0	1.0	816	33	2.6	12
Oregon .....	1,748.4	2.4	874	23	2.9	8
Pennsylvania .....	5,719.8	1.0	933	18	1.6	38
Rhode Island .....	472.9	1.6	898	19	2.0	27
South Carolina .....	1,916.4	2.7	765	44	2.5	13
South Dakota .....	422.9	1.4	712	49	3.3	4
Tennessee .....	2,755.7	1.8	836	29	2.0	27
Texas .....	11,402.8	3.0	973	13	3.1	5
Utah .....	1,297.5	2.9	796	39	1.7	35
Vermont .....	307.0	1.0	813	35	0.7	49
Virginia .....	3,710.8	0.7	976	11	0.8	48
Washington .....	3,109.6	3.2	990	9	2.1	23
West Virginia .....	711.3	-0.3	792	41	1.4	42
Wisconsin .....	2,809.1	1.3	816	33	2.0	27
Wyoming .....	295.3	1.6	871	24	3.1	5
Puerto Rico .....	897.0	-2.0	504	(3)	0.6	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014 - Continued**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands .....	37.8	-2.2	728	(3)	2.8	(3)

## Footnotes:

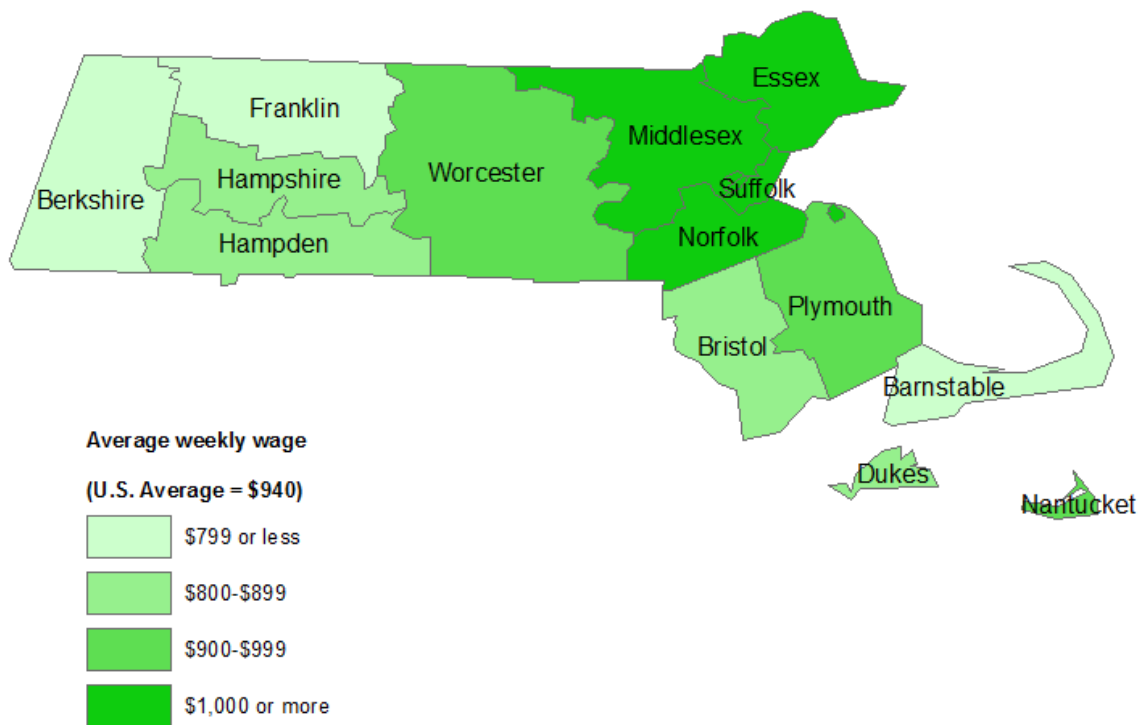
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

NOTE: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages  
by county in Massachusetts,  
second quarter 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.